

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's entry of the amendments, for purposes of appeal, and entry of the declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132, both of which were submitted in Applicant's response mailed 5/25/2006. Applicant further gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1-62, 87-120, 133 and 134 would be allowable if the amendments proposed in Applicant's response mailed 5/25/2006 were submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment further canceling the non-allowable claims (i.e., claims 80-82).

Accordingly, claims 1, 28, 48, 82, 90, and 120 have been amended as set forth in the above listing of the claims. Furthermore, claims 80 and 81 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 82 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 55. The amendment merely clarifies the dependency of claim 82 and, as such, no new matter is added by this amendment. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-62, 82, 87-120, 133 and 134 will be pending.

It is submitted that the amendments do not require a new search or consideration because the amendments merely clarify the claimed subject matter and do not change the subject matter under consideration. The amendments do not add more claims than were finally rejected and, it is submitted, place the claims in condition for allowance, or in better condition for appeal. As such, it is respectfully requested that the amendments be entered.

Appl. No. 10/718,779
Amdt. dated July 14, 2006
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 3732

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

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Respectfully submitted,
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